

## Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 SS-20 NSC-10 SSO-00 INRE-00

NSCE-00 SAL-01 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 /085 R

DRAFTED BY ARA-LA/PAN: SMOREYBELL:GFH

APPROVED BY ARA - JACK B. KUBISCH

ARA - AMB BOWDLER

ARA/PAF - MISS MARSHALL

S/S - MR. GAMMON

WH - MR. W. JORDEN

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O 241730Z OCT 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

GOVPANCANAL CO IMMEDIATE

USCINCSO IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 209779

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PN

SUBJ: POSSIBLE REAPPEARANCE OF PRESS REPORTING ON

ALLEGED "PLUMBERS" PLOTTING TO ASSASSINATE

TORRIJOS

REF: STATE 112189; PANAMA 3074; PANAMA 3234

1. DEPARTMENT HAS INFORMATION TO EFFECT THE "WASHINGTON POST" IS IN POSSESSION OF WHAT PURPORTS TO BE "DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE" TENDING TO CORROBORATE "NEWSWEEK'S" ORIGINAL STORY THAT HUNT AND HIS ASSOCIATES PLOTTED ASSASSINATION OF TORRIJOS AND JOURNEYED TO MEXICO FOR THAT PURPOSE. IT IS POSSIBLE "POST" WILL BREAK THIS STORY SUNDAY, OCTOBER 28 OR THEREAFTER.

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2. BELIEVE AMBASSADOR SHOULD COMMUNICATE IMMEDIATELY

WITH TORRIJOS TO ADVISE HIM IN ADVANCE OF POSSIBLE APPEARANCE OF "POST" STORY, THE DETAILS OF WHICH WE DO NOT KNOW; TO REITERATE TO HIM EMPHATICALLY THAT NO RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT EVER CONTEMPLATED SUCH AN ACTIVITY; TO SAY THE DEPARTMENT INTENDS UPON APPEARANCE OF ANY SUCH STORY TO ISSUE A CATEGORICAL DENIAL THAT ANY RESPONSIBLE USG OFFICIAL WAS INVOLVED; AND TO EXPRESS THIS GOVERNMENT'S

DEEP REGRET THAT THIS ALLEGATION CONTINUES TO ATTRACT PRESS ATTENTION.

3. AMBASSADOR SHOULD ADD THAT THIS GOVERNMENT HOPES THE PANAMANIAN GOVERNMENT WILL TAKE LOW-KEY APPROACH TO THIS UNFORTUNATE DEVELOPMENT, AS IT DID WHEN "NEWSWEEK" STORY APPEARED, PARTICULARLY AT A TIME WHEN BOTH GOVERNMENTS ARE PREPARING TO RESUME TREATY NEGOTIATIONS.

4. DEPARTMENT LEAVES TO AMBASSADOR THE DECISION AS TO WHETHER THIS MESSAGE SHOULD FIRST BE COMMUNICATED TO FOREIGN MINISTER TACK, WITH WHOM AMBASSADOR FIRST DISCUSSED THE ALLEGATION. WE BELIEVE IT IMPORTANT, HOWEVER, THAT AMBASSADOR SPEAK PERSONALLY WITH TORRIJOS IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, PARTICULARLY SINCE HE APPARENTLY HAS IN PAST HAD DIFFICULTY BELIEVING THE USG DENIALS, AND THAT AMBASSADOR SPEAK ALSO TO AMBASSADOR GONZALEZ REVILLA SO THAT HE MAY HELP MOLD TORRIJOS' REACTION.

KISSINGER

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, PROPAGANDA, ASSASSINATION, PLOTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 24 OCT 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** morefirh  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** LA/PAN: SMOREYBELL:GFH  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS KUBISCH  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
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**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, PN, (TORRIJOS HERRERA, OMAR)  
**To:** PANAMA  
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